



Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

## PREPARE FOR ROOT CROPS.

Those who have examined into the Schedule of Premiums on Crops, sent out by the Trustees of the State Agricultural Society, will see that greater encouragement is given for competition in the root crops than heretofore. The Trustees believe that the discouragements induced for several years past by the prevalence of the potato rot has had a tendency to put Maine rather in the back ground as it regards the several varieties of roots which were formerly raised among us, and we hope will be again.

We therefore take the opportunity this early, to call the attention of our readers to the subject, and to hint the propriety of their laying out their plans and making due preparations for cultivating a greater breadth of root crops than heretofore.

Four things appear to be necessary requisites for a prime crop, viz: A well prepared fertilized soil—good seed—good cultivation, and faith.

Some farmers, because they have heretofore suffered loss of potatoes by rot, are not willing to venture much in the spring, and therefore plant but a small lot. We know how vexatious it is to expend money and labor in the spring in getting a field of potatoes planted in good shape, and then see, when the harvest is at hand, the whole field changed, during a single night, from one full of beauty and promise into a blighted and worthless incubation upon the ground, and a "stench in every man's nose." But the last year was more propitious; but very little potato rot was seen, and some splendid crops were secured by those who planted more in hope than in any well-founded expectations. This result has given new encouragement, and it is hoped the day of the scourge has passed and we may once more go into root culture as zealously and as successfully as we were wont in old times.

As potatoes for seed will be much more abundant than they have been for many springs previous, we hope that every farmer will double the amount which he has for a few years past planted, and that the old-fashioned yield will reward his labors. Plant potatoes largely, but do not neglect the other varieties of roots, such as turnips, rutabagas, beets, carrots and parsnips. They all come into good use during our long winters and in the spring. We are too reliant upon the corn and hay crop. They, to be sure, are the main crops for a farmer's stock, but should by no means be all the staff in your hands during the winter. Other and more experienced nations do not neglect these crops. The turnip seems to be the corner stone of England's prosperity. Daniel Webster used to say, if the turnip crop should fail for a single year, England would become bankrupt. It is true, that in the Indian corn crop we have a much better and more reliable article of food, but it will be profitable to add roots to it. The rutabaga is an exhausting crop, but one of value, however much it has been derided and abused. It is a gross feeder, and to obtain a heavy crop for cattle feed, should be sown early—for the table, a few may be put in later, say 4th of July. Almost every farmer in Maine knows how to grow rutabagas, but we are not well posted up in the best modes of growing the flat, or English turnips. They do this better in the British Provinces than we do. Nevertheless, it is pleasant to hear how others succeed in crops that we are familiar with as well as those with which we are not much acquainted. So we will abridge from the *Country Gentleman* the story of John W. Jones of Onondaga County, N. Y., respecting his rutabaga crop:

Ground plowed previous fall; it was a clover sod of three years standing; well harrowed in the spring; drilled by a plow 30 inches apart—a subsoil plow run through in the bottom of the drills; on this, put 8 bushels of bone dust mixed with 16 bushels of ashes; then covered the drills by two furrows, and sowed about 25th of May with Emory's Seed Drill, depositing the seed on the ridges. They were weeded and cultivated fairly, but no extra labor given them. The grass-hoppers trimmed them sharply in July and August. The crop was very even, and the yield was 950 bushels, or about 28 tons net. The amount of land was one acre—14 lbs. seed, and the variety was Ashcroft's Purple.

## WINTER MANAGEMENT OF MANURES.

In our last, under the head of sheltering manures, we referred to an article from the *Country Gentleman* on this subject, and promised further remarks from that source. We now redeem that promise by publishing the article following. It will be seen that although the manure is not sheltered in a cellar it is kept from the rains and snow under shade, and kept from fermenting by being trampled hard by cattle. It will also be seen that it involves the plan of feeding cattle under sheds; a system which we do not approve of in our rigorous winters. The warmer your barn, and the warmer you keep your cattle, the better will they thrive, and the less food will they require. The main part of the article referred to reads thus:

"First, have good racks under your shed so that your cattle will feed there. Second, have them roomy and well littered, so that they will rest and sleep there. This will, of itself, bring a large share of your yard manure under shelter. But its decomposition will be too slow to allow it to attain its greatest value for spring crops.

Now bring on your wheelbarrow. Remove to your shed and the dryer portions of the yard, every day, the manure from the horse stable. This dung is richer in nitrogen, the most valuable constituent of manure, than that of any other farm stock, but as usually treated, a large share of its value is lost. To retard its too active decomposition, mix it with the colder, less active dung of cattle from their stables, &c., and a large quantity of litter, and the value of the whole is greatly increased—the horse manure carries on the decomposition.

composition of the whole mass, (if kept damp enough,) "about right" to prevent loss, and to get the full value of all the material employed. If not sufficiently rotten in spring, it may very speedily be decomposed by giving it air and moisture—by heaping it in light heaps out of doors for a few weeks. Or if plowed under immediately in a long state, it is much more valuable than if not managed as above described.

"Mix and shelter your manure in this way and you will find it a different article in its effects from that you have heretofore applied. At least I have done so. It is important, I will repeat, that this mixed manure be kept where it will be trodden hard by the stock. Treated in the same way, and placed in a barn cellar, it will fireproof or burn—here it is too solid for that, but not for a slow decomposition. The constant addition of litter required will use up the refuse fodder of the farm, and more too, if one gets dry leaves, sawdust and the like, to add to the stock of fertilizing material. And the use of the wheelbarrow, or mixing the material where it will be sheltered and receive and absorb a large share of the liquid manure of the stock, will give about the best condition and quality of barnyard manure."

## ONE OF THE WOMEN.

J. B. B. of New Britain, Massachusetts, in a communication to the *Country Gentleman*, after making some remarks upon the fashions of the day and the neglect of physical culture and consequent degeneracy of the strength and endurance of the rising generation, gives the following account of a remarkable woman in his vicinity:

"We have," says he, "a specimen in this town of a maiden lady, who is now 83 years of age, who was brought up according to the rules of the old school, and has strictly followed them without adopting any of the modern rules, not even wearing hoops. She has walked several times during the present season 25 miles and upwards a day, and one stormy day the past winter, walked 15 miles without showing any signs of being wearied. An exercise to which she has always accustomed herself, and proving to be one of the very best means for the development of female health and beauty, and the one which most equally and effectively calls into action every part; not only exercising every limb, but every muscle, assisting and promoting the circulation of the blood throughout the whole body. She also says that they were not only accustomed but required to rise early and to milk the cows; two habits which have become obsolete at the present day."

The following also illustrates as remarkably thrifty and economy in the old lady as she exhibits in physical strength:

"Although she commenced life with little or no capital, she has been able, by her industry and economy, to secure a competency sufficient to make herself comfortable through life, should she live to be as old as some of the antediluvians. Some five or six years ago she purchased a farm and stock in this town, for which she paid \$5,300 cash, and has since added several hundred dollars worth of land to it, and she has always worked for low wages, from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per week, and verifies the proverb—'Take care of the cents and the dollars will take care of themselves.' That is, by avoiding petty extravagance, and economizing the daily expenses of life, a competency will be realized more surely and more honorably than by parsimonious saving or inordinate profits. Three years ago she worked out for wages as a hired maid, where they kept thirty cows, besides having the care of her farm. Quite a contrast between the old school and new school helpmeets."

## BONE MEAL—HEN GUANO.

Mr. Editor:—By answering the following questions through the *Farmer* you will confer a favor:—What shall we do for a cow that is always hunting after and chewing bones, and, of course, is always poor? (1.) In manufacturing hen guano what proportion of plaster should be mixed? Should the manure be allowed to ferment before using? (2.) What is the best method of applying it alone or with other manure upon the top of the hill.

Any information relative to the above will be thankfully received.

Respectfully yours, P. Palermo, March 24, 1860.

NOTE 1. If your cows manifest a desire to eat bone, help them to what they need. This is best done by grinding bones fine and mixing the powder with meal. If you have not the means to grind them you can find bone meal for sale at the agricultural stores. Kendall & Whitney of Portland, will supply you with bone meal reasonably, by the quart, bushel, or barrel.

2. If you can have dry muck to mix with hen dung it will be better than plaster. A little plaster thrown over the heap will be good. Manure of all kinds should be fermented or partially decomposed before it can render nourishment to the crop, but, in doing this, any of the fertilizing matter driven off by the process should be retained by an admixture of muck, loam, charcoal, &c., for use. Care should be used not to apply it in a too caustic state lest you destroy the seed or young rootlets.

## POKE.

Mr. Editor:—Can you or any of your correspondents give any information in regard to any experiments being tried to exterminate this obnoxious weed from our fields and pastures?

It is an early and vigorous grower, inhabiting our fields upon the sandy river and its tributaries, that do not allow of cultivation. It is dangerous to cattle on account of its early starting in the spring, but later they do not feed it, and it is inconvenient in hay.

I have said it is dangerous to cattle, and so it is in a green state in the spring when they are first turned to grass, but when dried with the grass at haying, cattle eat of it in the hay with impunity as far as I am aware, and so do sheep. Those who have tried it, say that crows, grubs, or any of the *et ceteras* will not eat corn which is soaked in a solution of poke before planting, and that it is not a dangerous mode of procedure with seed corn.

## AGRICULTURAL CONVENTION AT NEW HAVEN.

Mr. Brower's lecture was on the subject of Tobacco, its history, mode of raising, curing, &c. The Professor's remarks proved his intimate knowledge of the subject, but, although it is one that the world are more or less interested in, it is one that the world could very well dispense with, or rather might dispense with to advantage—and we must beg the privilege of passing it by.

The Professor commenced the thirteenth day with a lecture on Hops. This is a rather a prolific subject, but one not quite so interesting to the great body of farmers as some crops more essential to life.

In 1859, he says there were raised 4,497,000 lbs. He traced the history of the plant, and showed that its general use can be dated only 300 years back. England uses forty millions pounds, paying to the government a duty of over a million dollars. If only the hop flowers are taken from the farm, the crop is not of so exhaustive a nature as tobacco; but still it is very much so, after all. From a ton of hops we get 170 pounds of ash, of which potash, lime, and ammonia form principal ingredients. Liberal applications of manure are needed, and they do not affect the quality of product, as is the case with tobacco. Beside farm yard dung, wool, hair, bones, plaster, lime, and ashes, are all useful fertilizers. In England, the Kent and Sussex hop-growers calculate upon spending about \$50 per acre for special manures, in addition to what of the ordinary kind they make on the farm. With such care, they have hop plantations 300 years old. The ground must be trenched and worked deeply. About 1,200 hills is the proper number per acre, and for each 200 hills there should be one hill of male plants. It is better to plant in triangular form rather than square; that is to say, the hills of adjoining rows should alternate, and not be set opposite each other. When plucked, the hops should be as soon dried, and this is better done by passing a current of hot air over them than in placing them in a room where they get only the radiated heat from the stove. Living rooms, besides exposing hops to the fumes of sulphur, as the *lupuline*, or active principle, may be preserved from one season to another. The practice is opposed by some, but adopted by many of the best Munich brewers. The hop crop varies from year to year to such an extent that the price is very fluctuating, and even in a single season a month may make a difference of 100 per cent. In conclusion, he detailed the casualties to which the hop is subject, such as insects, weevil, &c., and gave practical directions for its cultivation.

During this day, Judge French gave his third lecture on Draining. He went into the cost of draining, which he says, in this country is twice as great as it should be: two-inch tiles are sold at \$10, or more, per 1,000, which is twice the cost of bricks. In England, tiles cost and are sold at less than the price of bricks, and will be sold at \$5 per 1,000 here as soon as tile making is understood, and there is a fair competition.

The fourth day's lectures were commenced by John Stanton Gould, of Hudson, N. Y.—on Grasses. This is a subject of so much importance to farmers of the North that we wish we could give the report of his lecture in full. We do not know enough about grasses, and we do not do enough about them, and every new idea that we can obtain from Mr. Gould, or anybody else, ought to be carefully cherished. Mr. Gould, after some general remarks, proceeded to consider the economical relations of grasses. The grasses extend over the whole globe. Very curious and various provisions are made for the diffusion of the seeds; many of them are furnished with creeping roots. They are not, like other plants, injured by the laceration of their herbage. One-sixth of all the plants on the globe belong to this family—230 genera, including 3,000 species are already known, and new species are constantly presenting themselves. Six-tenths of the cultivated area of New York is devoted to the growth of grass, and the annual value of the crop is \$600,000,000. In the six New England States its annual value is \$6,000,000. In the United States \$300,000,000. If we succeed in making two blades of grass grow where but one grew before, we increase our annual income \$300,000,000.

It was argued that the grass crop might be very easily doubled, and instances and statistical facts were adduced in proof. He alluded, also, to the prevailing ignorance among farmers in regard to the variety of grasses. Very few know the names of the grasses growing on their farms, nor can they distinguish one from another. They know little or nothing of the comparative nutritive value of the different species, nor of the soils best adapted to them, nor of the special purposes to which they are applicable.

He also urged that much of observation and experiment is necessary before we pretend to understand the grasses. The making of artificial meadows is an art yet in its infancy. We never hear of them in England prior to A. D. 1681, nor in this country until about A. D. 1720. The attention of observers and experimentalists should be directed to the following points:

1. The special use of each of the 3,000 species of grass.
2. The absolute and comparative values of each species should be ascertained by chemical analysis and practical tests.
3. The adaptation of each species to different soils, climates, and circumstances.
4. The period of its growth when it contains the greatest amount of those properties on which its value chiefly depends.
5. The kind of culture and the manures best adapted to stimulate its growth and to increase its valuable properties.
6. The time of flowering of each species, and the time when it responds its seed.
7. The species of insects which prey upon it, and the best modes of preventing their ravages.
8. The best and most economical means of curing and preserving each species of grass.

## MANURES.

Mr. Editor:—A subscriber wishes to know, through the columns of the *Farmer*, if it would be warrantable to buy guano to use as a manure for corn where a farmer is short of dressing? and, in his case, if by using \$10 worth per acre he can raise 40 bushels of corn, he is ready to start a few acres. Perhaps there are other enterprising farmers who would gladly invest a sum in foreign fertilizers if it could appear that it "would pay."

Now for a starting point. Can any Maine farmer show, by careful experiment, where guano or any other foreign fertilizer has paid when applied to field crops? If this can be shown, can it not also be proved that "home manufactured" fertilizers, of equal efficacy, can be afforded at as cheap rates? Would it not be well for some farmers who are prone to complain of "hard times," "no money circulating," "nothing which will fetch the cash," &c., to reflect a little, read their agricultural papers more carefully and see if they cannot figure out some plan to keep more cash in Maine.

Please give us a hint, Doctor, about preparing manure heaps at this season. I notice many farmers are now starting their manure into their fields; some contend that the fermenting process which is accelerated by stirring, is beneficial, others wish to expose more to the action of frost. Is this the best course? S. N. T.

## "LITTLE THINGS."

Mr. Editor:—Under the above caption, "B," of Bethel, in the *Farmer* of March 1st, says:—"Purchase the quantity of plaster you need to use the coming season; put it in open sacks, and set it in the piggery and stable, that it may absorb the ammonia escaping from the manures." This little sentence contains several little errors. First: it implies that all farms require plaster, when in fact one-third or one-half would receive no benefit, or be injured by its use. Secondly: plaster does not absorb ammonia. Why? Because it is a complete organization of itself, being composed of sulphuric acid, lime, and water. Ground plaster, as generally used in this country, consists of 28 lbs. of lime, 40 lbs. of sulphuric acid, and 18 lbs. of water, making 86 lbs., or about one bushel. Plaster has no effect upon the growth of plants until it is dissolved. When dissolved, the sulphuric acid alone produces the effect upon vegetable life. To dissolve a bushel of plaster, would require four thousand gallons of water, or five hundred times its own bulk. Plaster should not be mixed with manure—it should not come in contact with the roots of plants—it should be spread, broadcast, upon the surface only.

These are mere assertions, but to prove them true, I propose the following experiment to be instituted by the Board of Agriculture, the State Agricultural Society, by each County Society, by each town Farmers' Club, and by each individual who may find it convenient. When the experiment is completed, I shall be gratified to learn the result.

## THE EXPERIMENT.

When the time for sowing wheat arrives, take six bushels of good seed wheat and wash it clean in pure soft water—rain water is the best. Let it remain in clear water for twenty-four hours, then empty it upon the barn floor in three piles of two bushels each. Into the first pile, put four quarts of ground plaster, and shovel it over until every berry is coated with it; then make it into a compact pile and spread over it a cotton sheet. Into the second pile, put four quarts of fresh slacked lime, as hot as it can be, and cover with a sheet. The third pile, cover with a sheet, but put nothing into the wheat. In twenty-four hours from this time, determine the temperature of each pile by inserting a thermometer into it. The object of the experiment is to ascertain what effect plaster and lime have, separately, upon naked vegetable life. If it should be found that the wheat into which the plaster was put has sprouted, and the roots so interlocked as to cause them to adhere so as to be taken up in bunches as large as a man's fist, while the other two parcels have not sprouted, it would naturally suggest some further inquiry. Having prepared the wheat, the next thing is, how shall the land be prepared to receive it? I will give the answer in my next paper.

PHILIP MORRILL.

Glenburn, March 12th, 1860.

## WILLOW FENCES.

Mr. Editor:—In your paper of March 1st, 1860, is a communication from the Norridgewock Farmers' Club, in which the Vice President, Wm. H. Taylor, said it had cost him, to fence his farm of fifty acres of land, in the last ten years, \$200; and that now the boards are all rotten. I would suggest a willow hedge, or some other live fence, and I would propose the following method of starting it: take some 3 by 4 joist, or anything else that is handy—sharpen the points, and drive them into the ground—have the boards about three feet above the ground; to these nail strips of boards, one at the top, and the other about a foot from the ground; the boards can be of any width that can be got, three or four inches will answer very well; into these nail lathe sticks of any size, and two or three feet long, and by the time the fence has decayed, the willows will be strong enough to keep out any cattle. After the first year, the hedge will need clipping once a year, say in August, and if it is kept clipped to within four or five feet of the ground, they will do but very little hurt to the ground. They can be set near enough to each other to keep out even a dog if necessary.

Now about lengthening the season. You say it can be done by underdraining, but do not give directions how it should be done, but say "is rendered dry in two or three days if well ditched." Do you mean by that that the ditch should be left open? If so, I think I can suggest an improved method, by laying a drain. Last August I visited among some of the farmers in Fairfield and Norridgewock, and I spent one week very pleasantly with friend Browning Gifford, a mile or so to the north of the Friend's Meeting-house. When I arrived I found him with his men and team, preparing to drain a swale, that run through his field to the south of his house, and east of the road. After putting up my horse, I went to the field where they were at work, and requested the privilege of helping lay the drains. Mr. G. plowed and dug a drain about three feet deep, and about two feet deep, and about two hundred feet in length. The ground was quite stony, there being large heaps about his field which he intended to throw into the ditch when dug; in addition to small round stones usually found, there were flat ones that were easily split into any thickness required. I proposed taking those flat stones and laying a regular drain before throwing in the round ones, which we did about eight inches square; then filled in with the others; then scraped the dirt over the whole, leaving the swale even with the ground adjoining. He then plowed the field, in passing, will please look and see the effect of underdraining.

country towns there are quite as many dogs kept, as swine, and perhaps at quite as great an expense, as their fare is much better than that of city dogs. When not fed about their homes, they are much in the habit of visiting the sheep pasture to satisfy or regale their appetite, and this is no doubt done to a much larger amount than all the dogs in the State are worth.

The only species of dogs that should be kept in the country, is the shepherd dog, which has a natural propensity for the care of cattle or sheep, and if well trained will never bite or harm an animal—yet this, like other dogs, is not free from liability to canine madness. AGRICOLA.

## Maine Board of Agriculture.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FENCING.

The Committee to whom was committed the resolve "that the subject of fencing demands the careful investigation of this Board," have had the same under consideration and report:

That, in their opinion, the long established custom of this country to surround the farm with a good substantial fence, and then to divide it into small fields and pastures so that all may be turned to occupy by the farm stock, has so fixed its importance upon the minds of the farmers of Maine, that it will require much argument, and considerable lapse of time before any other system which we can present, can reasonably be expected to receive any particular consideration.

It is presumed that so long established a usage which has caused such an extensive outlay, cannot be suddenly abrogated or even materially changed, until the community shall have made that careful investigation of the subject recommended to the Board by the Resolve under consideration.

Although the opinion of a few, might differ from the mass, and the laws of the State might be in accordance with that opinion; yet it would be impracticable, we might almost say impossible, to make the law available in this case till public opinion shall be so changed, that a large majority shall favor an alteration of the system and the laws by which it is regulated.

If the present system of this enclosing and dividing the farm, cannot be materially altered or dispensed with to a considerable extent, it would seem that little could be said for any practical purpose, beyond recommending to farmers to study the cheapest methods within their reach to erect substantial, durable, straight fences, crossing at right angles when it can be conveniently done, at the same time giving the fields as much length as practicable, that they may be cultivated with as much ease and little expense as possible. And we will here suggest, whether the English custom of hedging, might not be in many localities profitably adopted, and at the same time be ornamental to the farm. But notwithstanding the long established custom, it is at least questionable, whether the present expensive system of fencing, may not be materially changed for the better with a very great saving of cost and labor to the farmer.

If (as stated in the Secretary's report for 1859 page 217 in communication from Mr. Chamberlain on the subject of soiling,) the cost of fences in Maine is twenty-five millions of dollars, and the changes and repairs amount annually to ten per cent. on the cost, then we have for changes and repairs two millions five hundred thousand dollars, and the interest at six per cent. annually on the cost is one million five hundred thousand dollars. And allowing wooden fences to last twenty years, we find a twentieth part of the first cost to be one million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which shows an annual expense to the farmers of Maine of five millions two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Recomputed as follows:

10 per cent. on first cost for changes and repairs annually, is	\$2,500,000
6 per cent. for interest on same, 1,500,000	1,500,000
First cost divided by 20, (years of duration)	1,250,000
Total annual expense of fencing,	\$5,250,000

Your Committee concur in the remarks of that communication to which we have referred on interior fences to which they are confined; and beg leave to call the attention of the Board particularly to road fencing.

Assuming the road fences to cost one-eighth part of the whole, and we have three millions one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, allowing twelve per cent. to cover the annual interest and repairs, and we have three hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars as a tax per year (exclusive of building the fence) for the privilege of pasturing the highway or common. And if this fence has to be renewed once in twenty years we may add one twentieth of the cost of building as cost, and we have a yearly tax of one million five hundred and thirty-seven thousand dollars for the encouragement of one of the greatest nuisances the farmer has to endure, that of always having a drove of hungry cattle watching for a chance whenever his gate is open or bars down to step into his garden, or yard, and destroy some choice trees, or into his corn-field, while he is left to the alternative to leave a load of hay to get wet with a shower close upon him, and go and drive them out and close the entrance, or leave them to take care of the corn, while he secures the hay.

Then there is an additional yearly tax, which from any calculation we are able to make, we cannot set down less than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for breaking through snow-drifts caused by such fences, and we have the annual damage or cost of road fences. Recalculated as follows:

Loss on road fences from yearly decay, \$1,500,000	
Repairs and interest yearly at 12 per cent., 375,000	
For breaking roads annually in consequence of fence,	150,000
Annual cost of fencing the roads and damage,	\$2,025,000

Two millions eighty-seven thousand five hundred dollars, which we may fairly set down as a yearly loss in labor or cash to the farmer, leaving the many inconveniences he is subjected to in consequence of such fences out of the count.

We can readily imagine many conveniences which would be secured by the absence of road fences. It would give access to the field without the trouble of gates or bars. The land may be cultivated to the traveled path, and the farm much improved in appearance. Most farmers feel that they must have their buildings surrounded by fences to save themselves from the intrusion of cattle and hogs at large on the commons. And many, because their buildings are not of the latest or improved style, or somewhat old, expose themselves for letting the old log or rail fences remain around them, and other somewhat unsightly encumbrances, and submit to the inconvenience of gates or bars for access to the road; when if they would clear the whole away, and substitute a few ornamental trees instead of the fences, and cultivate around the house leaving only the necessary paths to and from the same, any sort of a dwelling would be vastly improved in appearance, and an actual gain by increased products, &c.

We hope the subject of the road fence will be especially considered, as we are not in this respect, trammelled by law, but by custom. And when this is changed, we shall have taken one important step in the right direction. The law does compel us to build half of division fences, whether they benefit ourselves or otherwise. But in the opinion of your Committee, all laws are of doubtful policy, to say the least, which compel us to build fences exclusively for the benefit of our neighbors; and we believe the true policy to be, that every man should be accountable for damages by his own cattle, and obliged to build only such fences as suits his own convenience.

We cannot see why a man should not be liable for damage or trespass by his beast, as by himself; or why he should be compelled to build walls to protect his property against spoliations of cattle, any more than against the owner, who could not avail himself of the plea against theft or trespass, that the door was too weak, the lock insufficient, or the walls too low.

We cheerfully concur in the remarks on this subject, expressed in a meeting of the American Institute Farmer's Club at New York, Nov. 14th, 1859. Mr. Joseph Blunt said: "The farmers in this country were formed and educated under the system of fences; a system founded upon the notion that a man is bound to protect his property by fencing out the world. That the law has no power; that a general respect for the rights of property has no existence; but that you must fence out all intruders, and guard your property with walls and fences, if you desire to enjoy it as your own. \* \* \* The whole system is founded upon an erroneous notion. The law does protect a man's property. His real estate and its products are his, and they lie under the protection of the law, whether fenced or unfenced. \* \* \* A man has no greater right to bring up his cattle in dishonest practices than he has to educate his family to live by theft. But many seem to think that cattle may be brought up to habits of theft and trespass without any legal responsibility, and that they may be turned out by day or night to prowl round on the highway, to watch for an opportunity to slip in at open gates, or open them for themselves, and then with their native instincts and their master's principles, making your carefully-maintained domestic institutions unfit for your enjoyment. This is unbecoming reasoning, and the sooner it is corrected the better it will be for the farming community."

In conclusion, we recommend to the farmers of Maine to figure up the cost of their buildings; add the annual expense and interest on the same, consider the inconveniences they suffer in consequence of the system as it now is, and see whether or not, it may be changed for the better by saving expense and improving appearances.

The question will undoubtedly arise in the mind: How shall a change be brought about? So far as it regards road fences, in any town or neighborhood where a half dozen men can be found who "know their rights and dare maintain them," who will throw down their road fences and enforce the law when actually necessary, they will soon effect a change, do the community around them an essential service, and contribute to the public good by relieving them of a heavy tax for which we conceive no benefit can be derived commensurate with the expense.

Respectfully submitted,  
E. L. HAMMOND,  
ALBERT MOORE,  
SEWARD DILL,  
Committee.

CULTURE OF FLAX, &c.

Stephen M. Allen of Boston, delivered an address at the State House in Providence, R. I., on Thursday evening, upon the culture of flax and its fabrication by machinery similar to that used in cotton manufacture. Edward D. Pearce, Esq., First Vice President of the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry, presided. We make the following extract from a report in the *Providence Post*:

"Since 1851, Mr. Allen has experimented extensively upon flax cotton, the results of which have been at least quite hopeful. He gave a detailed history of those experiments, some of the most important of which were conducted in this State, in conjunction with Mr. Stephen Randall of Centerville, with the use of machinery built by A. Sisson & Co. of Coventry. The principal conclusions that had thus been arrived at were, in brief: That it is unnecessary to rot the straw, or to pull the flax, thus removing very serious obstacles to the profitable production of the article by our farmers; that the old manner of breaking the flax by a laborious process in the latter stages of preparation, may be superseded by the use of a small machine in an earlier stage of the advantage of the material, and the great saving of labor; and that the former mode of extracting the gluten is susceptible of great improvement."

These conclusions have been practically and successfully applied, and there is good reason to believe that an article may be produced upon our own Northern soil that shall answer every purpose for which cotton is used, and which will prove superior to it on the score of economy. A small factory has been erected at Waterbury, Mass., for the manufacture of fibrilla composed in part of flax, and Mr. Allen exhibited samples of white cloth, calico, jean, and a pair of hose, in the manufacture of which from twenty to fifty per cent. of it was used.

Several gentlemen availed themselves of Mr. Allen's invitation to question him, thus eliciting considerable information further than what he had already given.











